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Chief of Mission, Frankfurt

Operational/Care

WILL LAQUA

Ref: OMMA-2369

1. Your attention is directed to two dispatches concerning Subject. The first was a report of the interrogation of Subject held at Auerhaus Prison, Oslo, 5 April 1946. The other was a dispatch from Headquarters dated 29 July 1948, immediately after Subject's repatriation to Germany. The latter report stated, in part:

"Before leaving Oslo, Subject contacted [] through the Norwegian Intelligence Service, and offered to turn over all of his contacts and former agents in Scandinavia, particularly Finland. Subject stated that he would never again professionally engage in intelligence work, but that he had been active in fighting Communism for over 20 years and did not wish to retire from this field without phasing the [] of his work at the disposal of those who were still carrying on the fight. His proposal was that he should turn over all of his contacts and assist in their handling as long as his help was considered useful. As compensation he requested only bare living expenses since he is completely without funds. He also stipulated that he would require that the safety of none of his contacts would be jeopardized in any way except as unavoidable in the course of performing their essential intelligence-gathering functions, and that his name should not appear in connection with intelligence reports or other documents except where essential to the re-establishment of contact with these individuals."

2. Headquarters decide not to accept Subject's offer for various reasons. Opinions of Subject and his ability varied with the interrogator. In general, it was felt that he was prone to exaggerate his own importance and to go to any lengths to advance his own ends. Further, while the British expressed an interest in Subject, they were willing to give us first choice - an indication that they did not place too high a value on Subject's potentialities; this made Headquarters rather skeptical. Most important, however, both the British and Norwegian Intelligence Services would be aware of any dealings we might initiate with Subject, so that some practically no secure operations could be mounted along these lines.

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